

## REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION----ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

March 6, 2006

9:00 a.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, March 6, 2006, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 37109-070505 adopted by the Council on Tuesday, July 5, 2005.

PRESENT: Council Members Sherman P. Lea (arrived late), Brenda L. McDaniel, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff-----1.

Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to §2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Council Member Cutler moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None -----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Member Lea arrived late.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None -----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Member Lea arrived late.)

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:  
NONE.

ITEMS LISTED ON THE 2:00 P. M., COUNCIL DOCKET REQUIRING DISCUSSION/CLARIFICATION, AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE 2:00 P. M., AGENDA: NONE.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT A JOINT MEETING OF COUNCIL AND THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006 AT 12:00 P.M.: The Mayor suggested that agenda items be submitted to the City Clerk.

#### BRIEFINGS:

CELEBRATIONS: Mayor Harris advised that the year 2007 will mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the City of Roanoke, and just as the City's 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries were honored, Roanoke will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He stated that Clifton B. "Chip" Woodrum, III, and Wendell H. Butler have agreed to Co-chair the Anniversary Committee, which will consist of approximately 12 - 14 persons; and the proposed calendar of events will include three major components: (1) a Roanoke Arts Festival, (2) small weekend celebratory events to highlight important historical landmarks, businesses, and accomplishments, and (3) activities commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Jamestown and honoring its historical impact on the City Roanoke. He explained that the Arts Festival will invite, utilize and showcase various arts and cultural organizations in the City and the region, and

coordinate various performances and events of certain organizations into an extended weekend or week of events, which may continue as a regional annual event similar to the Virginia Arts Festival which is held in the Tidewater area. He stated that it would be advantageous to retain the services of an individual with expertise in special events and fund raising to coordinate activities. He requested input by Council in order to provide direction to the City Manager.

The City Manager stated that three elements of celebrations are under consideration for 2007, and most communities have been responsive to the Jamestown 2007 celebration. She advised that efforts are underway to host a conference for railroad enthusiasts, a kickoff including an Annual Arts Festival is anticipated to be held in the fall to offset the Arts Festival which is held in the Tidewater area in the spring; and first year activities will include a three and one-half to four day event, beginning with a major gala reception on a Thursday evening, to be followed by performances of local arts and cultural organizations at a higher level than a normal Friday, Saturday or Sunday performance. She stated that in addition to the Arts Festival and Jamestown 2007 celebrations, there could be a number of mini-celebrations throughout the 2007 calendar year to celebrate the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary that would require the services of an executive director to focus on coordination of events.

As examples, the City Manager advised that the City would like to:

- showcase all businesses in the community that have operated in the City of Roanoke for 125 years;
- celebrate churches that have been in existence in the City of Roanoke for the last 125 years;
- showcase various attractions that reflect Roanoke's history, such as the antique road show;
- showcase a major author who is associated with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Roanoke for a presentation with regard to family genealogy;
- showcase various fashion eras over the past 125 years, using dolls or mannequins that could be dressed in period clothing;
- showcase a play at Mill Mountain Theatre in honor of the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The City Manager stated that small events will take place throughout the year, culminating in an Arts Festival as the major event to celebrate 125 years of the City's history in the fall. She further stated that a sufficient amount of brainstorming has gone into the concept and the process has reached the point where the service of an event planner is needed, seed funds should be included in the 2007 fiscal year budget, and the Art Festival, which will be a major expense, will be held in fiscal year 2008. She advised that it is anticipated that several fund raising events will be held to help fund the Arts Festival which are generally funded through municipal governments, private sector donations, and ticket revenues. She explained that the City should begin to put in place certain

fund raising activities so that responsibility for funding does not fall exclusively to the City of Roanoke, and with the Council's concurrence, a request will be included on a future Council agenda for approval to engage the services of an events coordinator by June 30, 2006, and to include seed funds in the fiscal year 2007 budget, with the understanding that 2006 will be the year for planning and fundraising and fiscal year 2007 will be the year for major expenses associated with the Arts Festival.

Mayor Harris called for suggestions by Council Members.

Council Member Cutler called attention to a Monacan Indian group in Amherst County whose representatives work as interpreters at Virginia's Explore Park, and archeological sites such as the Buzzard Rock location along the Roanoke River that are known to be Native American habitations which could provide another dimension to Roanoke's celebration.

Council Member Dowe suggested a small celebration in honor of Oliver White Hill.

Council Member McDaniel stated that the celebration would provide an opportunity to showcase Roanoke's neighborhoods; the Raleigh Court Land Company was formed in 1907 and the Raleigh Court neighborhood plans to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in conjunction with the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She suggested that other neighborhoods be invited to celebrate their milestones, and that families and neighborhoods be encouraged to research their history.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick suggested that neighborhoods could be invited to sponsor floats in a parade recognizing the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Council Member Lea entered the meeting.

Council Member Cutler suggested the use of historical markers that could be placed strategically throughout the City of Roanoke indicating the location of various historic buildings and landmarks.

Council Member Dowe stated that Asheville, North Carolina, has enhanced the region by advertising the assets of the community on a national basis.

Mayor Harris expressed appreciation for the suggestions offered by Council Members and advised that Council will receive periodic updates with regard to proposed activities.

Mayor Harris left the meeting and the Vice-Mayor took the Chair.

HOUSING/AUTHORITY: On Monday, February 6, 2006, Total Action Against Poverty requested the City's assistance, through appropriation of funds and a letter of support to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to renovate the Terrace Apartments, and the request having been referred to the City Manager for study and report to Council, the matter was again before the body.

The City Manager advised that it was unusual for such an application to come directly to the Council, and numerous requests have been received in past years for letters of support for tax credit applications, and with the exception of those projects planned by the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the City of Roanoke has forwarded letters of opposition. She stated that letters of opposition have caused no points to be awarded to a specific project, but because TAP has not only requested a letter of support, but a request for Community Development Block Grant funds, the City engaged in a rigorous evaluation of the Terrace Apartments renovation application, which involved discussions with TAP representatives. She added that the City has until March 25, 2006, to make a decision on any action to be taken, however, TAP has requested that Council make a decision today in order to provide sufficient time to complete the application to HUD. She called attention to two pending letters of support by other organizations, and advised that unless there are objections by the Council, the City administration would handle the requests in the same manner as past requests have been addressed through an administrative review and reach a decision based upon previously established City Council policy.

The City Manager called upon Ford Weber, Director, Department of Housing and Neighborhood Services, for the following presentation:

Council's HUD Policy (Adopted 2001)

Purpose of which is to promote home ownership, eradicate substandard housing, and make a stronger, more visible impact on neighborhood revitalization going beyond the initial project.

- Council's Targeted Reinvestment Strategy was first implemented in southeast Roanoke and is currently being implemented in Gainsboro, with Hurt Park, Loudon-Melrose, Gilmer, Old Southwest, and Washington Park to follow.

Strategic Housing Plan (Adopted by City Council in January 2006)

- Goal 1 - Arrest the decline in housing conditions
- Goal 2 - Stop population loss
- Goal 3 - Increase income levels in the City

Demographic Trends in City

- Decrease in the number of housing units
- Aging housing stock
- Lower ownership/high renter percentage:
  - 56% home ownership in the City, wherein the region as a whole is near 80%
  - 44% rental in City of Roanoke, 23% in Roanoke County
- Declining population (5%) despite regional gains (7%) from 1980-2000
  - City no longer has enough neighborhoods of choice competing effectively with suburbs, meaning people with economic choice tend to move out of the community
- Income Gap between City and Suburbs:
 

Area	MFI	Poverty
City of Roanoke	\$27,492	15.95%
Roanoke County	\$47,838	4.46%

  - Nearly one out of every six City residents live in poverty, whereas one out of every 22 residents in the region as a whole live in poverty

Overview of Terrace Apartments Proposal

## Current Status:

- 225 Units; 95% occupied
- Natural gas, forced air heating system
- Tenants do not pay for utilities
- Aging kitchen appliances and cabinets
- Not an eyesore, not substandard, but a tired development
- Acquired April 2005 for \$3.55 Million

Terrace Apartments Rent/Utility Structure

# Units	Type	Current Rent	Proposed	Utility Cost	Total Rental Cost
8	1 BR	\$350	\$360	\$75	\$435
8	1 BR	\$350	\$410	\$75	\$485
37	2 BR	\$395	\$455	\$90	\$545
18	2 BR	\$395	\$495	\$90	\$585
8	3 BR	\$425	\$545	\$107	\$652

Three different redevelopment or reinvestment scenarios proposed for the complex, which may be adjusted or modified to become more competitive, and become a catalyst for the community:

Item	Scenario One	Scenario Two	Scenario Three
New heating system	X	X	X
New appliances	X	X	X
New cabinets	X	X	X
Gutters/downspouts	X	X	X
Steps repaired	X	X	X
Air conditioning			X
Windows repaired	X		
Windows replaced		X	X
Sidewalks repaired		X	X
Playground & B-Ball Court			X
New laundry rooms			X
Accessible units		8	8
Density		-15	-15
Market rate units			8
Cost to City	0	0	\$250,000.00

#### HUD Funds 2006-2007

HUD funds were recently cut for the coming fiscal year (2006 - 2007):

CDBG was cut by 10% (\$201,000.00)

HOME was cut by 6% (\$43,000.00)

Additional cuts are anticipated for the 2007 - 2008 fiscal year.

The City has \$771,758.00 in CDBG and HOME funds available for Community Development requests during the 2006 - 2007 fiscal year.

Requests for grants totaled \$2,178,350.00.

CDBG/HOME Funding:

CDBG/HOME Community Development Applicants		
Applicant	# Applications	Total applied for:
Blue Ridge Housing Development Corp.	2	\$ 721,754.00
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center	1	\$ 65,833.00
Family Services of Roanoke Valley	1	\$ 30,000.00
Housing and Neighborhood Services, Dept. of	5	\$ 430,900.00
Kuumba Community Health & Wellness Center	1	\$ 83,750.00
Police Department	1	\$ 72,973.00
Rebuilding Together Roanoke	1	\$ 25,000.00
TBI Family Services	1	\$ 200,000.00
TAP	4	\$ 418,140.00
YWCA of Roanoke Valley	2	\$ 130,000.00
Total Requests	19	\$2,178,350.00
Total CDBG/HOME funds available for requests		\$ 771,758.00

Real Property Taxes

- Real Estate Valuation staff estimates the value of the property under scenarios two and three to increase by approximately 37% (\$20,230.00/yr) due to HUD/LIHTC limitations on rental income.
- Revenue would increase by even less if the project receives rehabilitation tax abatement.

City's LIHTC Options

- Oppose the Application      0 Points
- Neutral Position              25 Points
- Support the Application      50 Points

Recommendation:

The Administration recommends a neutral position without any City funding.

- A neutral position is better than the City's current policy of opposing LIHTC projects.
- The entire complex can be upgraded under Scenario One without any City funds.
- The City has prior commitments to other community development projects based on adopted policy. This project is not located within any of the six targeted neighborhoods identified for redevelopment activities.



- There is no guarantee under Scenarios 2 or 3 that the entire complex will eventually be upgraded.

Council Member Cutler requested clarification on the statement that "There is no guarantee under Scenarios 2 or 3 that the entire complex will eventually be upgraded". Mr. Weber stated that Scenarios 2 and 3 would address 93 units out of 225, and address the balance of units at a future date, which is contingent upon other funding mechanisms and other development plans, therefore, there is no guarantee that they would be carried out.

The City Manager advised that TAP would have to make application for tax credits in a subsequent year; the number of applications cannot be predicted or the competitiveness of applications in a subsequent year; therefore, the only guarantee, assuming TAP receives the tax credits, is that 93 units will be completed.

Council Member Cutler inquired as to the funding source for the \$500,000.00 previously requested by TAP; whereupon, the City Manager advised that because Scenario No. 3 divides the project, the assumption is that only a portion of the \$500,000.00 will be necessary this year, with the remainder of funds to be requested in a subsequent year. She explained that the City has more applications for CDBG funding than the City has the capability to address, and TAP was included on the list of outstanding requests, however, the total amount of funds applied for did not include the Terrace Apartments renovation.

Council Member Lea asked for a clarification with regard to the staff recommendation; whereupon, the City Manager advised that the City could forward a letter of support, without funding, however, TAP previously requested a letter of support and \$500,000.00 over a certain period of time.

Theodore J. Edlich, III, President, TAP, spoke in support of separating the request for funds from the letter of support, and advised that although TAP would like to have financial assistance from the City of Roanoke, a letter of support would be more important to the project. Therefore, he requested that Council entertain a letter of support, without financial assistance, which would increase the chances of receiving maximum funding for the project from HUD. He stated that TAP will continue to look for other funding sources to replace the money that was requested from the City.

Council Member Dowe referred to a statement made by staff that the project could have a catalytic affect on the neighborhood, and inquired as to who would be responsible for monitoring the outcome.

As an example, the City Manager referred to the Southeast By Design project which ensured an increase in the assessed value of properties in southeast Roanoke, and, due in part to the City's investment in the community, more business owners are willing to make improvements to the facades of their buildings and some new businesses have moved into the southeast area. However, she stated that there is not enough HUD money for the City to improve a total neighborhood, therefore, the City has tried to measure the dollar investment, which is a catalyst for private investment, whether by banks or individuals. In summary, she advised that one of the measures is to look at property assessments and whether assessments are growing in a community where they might have been lagging behind.

Council Member Dowe asked for a definition of the term "tired development"; whereupon, Mr. Weber stated that the term was derived from information provided by TAP which stated that the apartment complex needs renewal and is an aging structure that is over 50 years old.

The City Manager advised that City staff reviews all of the needs as a community and the first priority is to eliminate the City's substandard housing; funds are included in the upcoming CDBG budget known as "derelict structure money" to be used for the specific purpose of acquiring properties that are substandard for rehabilitation, and if certain structures cannot be rehabilitated they should be demolished. She advised that when considering substandard versus standard or tired housing, the Terrace Apartments project could use some help, but they are not included in the substandard category.

Mr. Edlich reiterated his previous request to remove a request for CDBG funds from consideration, and that the City issue a letter of support of TAP's application for tax credits to HUD.

Council Member Dowe inquired as to the role of the City when competing with other agencies for funds; whereupon, the City Manager advised that funding recommendations are submitted to a committee composed of individuals that are both part of the City organization and outside of the City organization which evaluates all applications based upon City policy. She explained that the City has attempted to address issues relating to low income tax credit requests by de-concentrating poverty within the City; as an urban community, the City of Roanoke should be the place of choice and need by many people, but the concentration of poverty has worked against the City, and to some extent, the concentration of poverty also addresses segregation in Roanoke.

Council Member Lea moved that the City Manager be authorized to issue a letter of support of tax credits to HUD for renovation of the Terrace Apartments, as requested by Total Action Against Poverty without CDBG funding. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler.

Council Member Cutler inquired if the City's support of the application for tax credits will reduce the opportunity for other projects to compete for funds; whereupon, Susheela Shanta, President, Development Initiatives, Inc., stated that the letter of support is a form letter which states that the City of Roanoke supports the application, with no commitment of funds. She emphasized the significance of the City's support of the Terrace Apartments project, and advised that no financial support by the City will still ensure a position in the ranking, although it does not mean that the project will be funded, but could leverage approximately \$8 - \$10 million of funding from various private and public sources from outside the region. She stated that there would be no competition for any other City funds by supporting the project.

Council Member McDaniel spoke in support of the City's policy with regard to no additional low-income housing in the neighborhoods; however, in reality, the Terrace Apartments currently exist and are owned by TAP, and TAP's proposal, which has the support of the Wasena and Raleigh Court Civic Leagues, is an opportunity to improve the apartments. She stated that although she did not believe that the project will have a catalytic affect on the surrounding neighborhood, some homeowners will be appreciative of the fact that the Terrace Apartments will be properly maintained and more aesthetically pleasing. Therefore, she advised that she would vote in favor of a letter of support.

The motion was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe and Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Mayor Harris was not present when the vote was recorded). (Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

CELEBRATIONS-SPORTS ACTIVITIES: R. Brian Townsend, Director, Planning, Building and Economic Development, reviewed a video presentation regarding the "U. S. Challenge" presented by FORTUNE magazine, which will be held in the Roanoke Valley on October 20 - 21, 2006. The "U. S. Challenge" is described as follows:

The Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau Sports Marketing Committee has a stellar record of competing - and winning bids - to bring major sports events and millions of dollars to the Roanoke Valley. Today, the Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau and regional partners announced that the 2006 U. S. Challenge, organized by Challenger World, will take place in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains on October 20 - 21, 2006.

U. S. Challenge, a national event presented by FORTUNE magazine, is part of the world's fastest growing teambuilding concepts, designed to create great teams for business. Up to 70 companies will develop teams, consisting of five individuals, to compete in the event, which is intended to inspire staff, energize business and increase productivity through teambuilding. Over two action packed days and nights, athletes might be kayaking through fast flowing rivers, scaling the Blue Ridge Mountains, navigating through forests at night, cracking codes or engineering tasks using the simplest to the most complex equipment. Challenger World uses a specialized formula called Intelligent Sports™ to challenge competing teams. To succeed, teams must show intelligence, strong communication skills, teamwork and the ability to strategize. In 2005, over 300 teams from FORTUNE 500 businesses, including Accenture, Cisco Systems; Dell, Microsoft, First National Bank and Volvo competed in challenges around the world.

The U. S. Challenge will be regional in scope. Partners include the County of Roanoke, City of Roanoke, City of Salem, Town of Vinton, County of Botetourt, County of Franklin, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership and the Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau. With the use of facilities in multiple jurisdictions and the impact it has on businesses, this event will benefit the entire Roanoke Valley.

The U. S. Challenge will provide incredible exposure for the Roanoke Valley. With over \$750,000.00 in pre-event promotions, Challenger World will place full-page, color advertisements in publications such as FORTUNE and Delta Sky magazines. Additionally, a 30 minute television spot will be produced to air after the event, providing even more coverage and promotion for the Roanoke Valley on both a national and international level.

The U. S. Challenge will provide the opportunity to showcase the Valley's outstanding outdoor amenities, as well as its lifestyle and business attributes.

Mr. Townsend stated that "U. S. Challenge" representatives considered approximately ten different locations within the region to stage events, they plan to return to the Roanoke Valley in April to select actual venues, and an interest has been expressed in Carvins Cove for water related activities. He added that representatives of the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitor's Bureau will have an opportunity to meet with organizers, and it is anticipated that some of the major employers in the Roanoke Valley will be invited to attend an activity on April 25 in which local businesses will be invited to either participate with a team and/or sponsor the participation of athletes;

Delta Airlines has included information on the event in *Sky* magazine which has provided a considerable amount of exposure to the region; and *Fortune* magazine will provide approximately \$.5 million worth of exposure and advertisement for the event between now and October, 2006; and with a \$10,000.00 commitment by the City of Roanoke (\$5,000.00 this fiscal year and \$5,000.00 next fiscal year) to help sponsor the event, as well as support by Roanoke County, the Roanoke Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, the event will receive a considerable amount of free publicity. He stated that the Department of Parks and Recreation will work with organizers of the event with regard to venue locations and other types of activities, it is anticipated that at least 70 teams, consisting of five members each will participate, and representatives of participating businesses will visit the Roanoke Valley for the award ceremony which will be held on Saturday evening following completion of events.

Mr. Townsend advised that the entry or participation fee, which includes lodging, etc., will range from \$7,000.00 to \$9,000.00, depending on the number of teams that are enrolled by a specific business.

Council Member Dowe called attention to another opportunity to showcase the Roanoke Valley through the Emerging Leaders Workshop, which includes top African American students in mathematics and science, who visit the Roanoke Valley in conjunction with Virginia Tech.

The City Manager pointed out that numerous company Presidents and Chief Executive Officers will attend the closing activities on Saturday evening which could be an opportunity to showcase the quality of life in the Roanoke Valley.

Council Member McDaniel inquired about the availability of the new DVD; whereupon, Mr. Townsend advised that the DVD, which contains a list of sponsors from last year's event that was held in Asheville, North Carolina, is available on the website, and will also be included with information regarding the event. Ms. McDaniel suggested that the Roanoke Valley region be listed on the DVD, especially if the information will be used for recruiting purposes this year.

Depending on the success of the event in 2006, Mr. Townsend advised that the issue of rotating sponsorship between regions could be discussed, the first location to host the event in the United States was Asheville, North Carolina, and the City of Roanoke was in competition with Charlottesville, Virginia, and a locality in the State of Kentucky to host the second United States event.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick suggested that colleges and universities in the Roanoke Valley, especially Virginia Tech, be invited to serve as major sponsors. He stated that on Saturday, October 21, a special welcome to Roanoke activities/amenities should be provided at the Roanoke Regional Airport upon arrival of Chief Executive Officers representing the various businesses to showcase the quality of life in the Roanoke Valley. He congratulated all persons who have participated in the process and advised that the U. S. Challenge will be a great opportunity for the Roanoke Valley as a region.

**PARKS AND RECREATION-GREENWAYS:** Louis “Donnie” Underwood, Parks and Greenways Planner, presented an overview of the following information with regard to pathways to healthier neighborhoods, and an active living approach to neighborhood planning (greenways):

### **Background**

Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the leading causes of death and disability in the United States. These diseases account for seven of every ten deaths and affect the quality of life of 90 million Americans. As the average American's lifestyle grows less active and more isolated, the results of a public-health check-up are not encouraging. The biggest indicator of an overall slowdown in physical activity is the obesity rate, surging nationwide, most alarmingly among children, 30% of whom are overweight. Obesity, along with heart disease and diabetes, is exacerbated by a sedentary lifestyle. All of these diseases also dramatically affect the aging population, among whom over 60% are inactive; this age group also suffers overwhelmingly from depression and mental illness, which can be heightened or prolonged by social isolation.

Although chronic diseases are among the most common and costly health problems, they are also among the most preventable. The prevalence of overweight among children aged six to 11 has more than doubled in the past 20 years, going from seven per cent in 1980 to 16% in 2002. The rate among adolescents, aged 12 to 19, more than tripled, increasing from five per cent to 16%. Overweight is the result of caloric imbalance (too few calories expended for the amount of calories consumed) and is mediated by genetics and health. An estimated 61% of overweight young people have at least one additional risk factor for heart disease, such as high cholesterol or high blood pressure. Additionally, children who are overweight are at greater risk for bone and joint problems, sleep apnea, and social and psychological problems such as stigmatization and poor self-esteem.

Originally, the field of Parks and Recreation was created to heal a society, to bring literally new life into the urban, industrial landscape by bringing greenspace into the toxic urban fabric of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and to give hope and anticipation back to citizens by implementing fun and enjoyable programming for the tired and depressed American workforce. Over the decades, the profession somewhat lost its roots and original value system, replacing it instead with years of justifications through a public relations drought resulting in society associating Parks and Recreation as simply “fun and games”.

It was not until late in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, that the profession began to sense that a shift was necessary; a repositioning that brought us “back to the future” in a sense where we slowly began to quantify the benefits provided to the user-base. It is no longer about how many people are enrolled for programs, rather it is about the empirical evidence that Parks and Recreation produces. The mission is to produce tangible results that quantify such attributes as a reduction in the chronic disease mortality rate in neighborhoods, the ability to increase property values through sales data and tax assessment via properly planned and managed greenspace, improvements to landscapes by the creation and protection of parks and conservation areas through land use policy which will enhance water and air resources, and successes in creating opportunities for obesity rates of children to falter due to safer routes to school.

When given the above evidence, it becomes logical to determine that the harvest or yield or the worth of Parks and Recreation far exceeds the boundaries of the polygons within our communities that are called parks, for the benefits of leisure services seep into and saturate every nitch of society, from urban land use planning, to economic development, tourism, public health, education and learning, livability, design, character, and comfort. It is no wonder that so many communities now label themselves as ‘*City’s Within A Park.*’

### **Current Data and Research**

A high quality environment is essential for both children and adults to achieve optimal health and development. Building and land-use policies, including the quality and design of a child’s physical environment, can help to cause or prevent illness, disability and injury, and degrade or preserve natural resources. As children grow and mature, the scope of their environment predictably expands per their built environment as a central factor in this progression. With proper planning and management through

urban park systems via green infrastructure administration, the City's built environment and land-use policies have the opportunity to promote safety, health and optimal development, while simultaneously preserving future natural resources through neighborhood greenway and trail systems.

Quality land-use planning and urban design protects human health and quality of life and preserves essential natural resources via greenways, open space, forests and clean water supplies. A healthy community is not just one with excellent medical care, it is one with an environment that encourages physical activity and social contact and provides healthy air and landscapes. In many communities and urban centers, urban sprawl has crept into forests and open spaces with ever widening roadways, but with little thought to alternate forms of transportation that could be created within the given landscape.

The CDC (Center for Disease Control) states that even a moderate amount of regular physical activity and social interaction could have a dramatic effect on these statistics. However, there are a number of disincentives to Americans getting out and about more often, and recent studies from both the planning and public-health professions locate many of them in the places where we live and work; more times than not, the way in which public spaces look and the ways in which they function do not create the need, the desire, nor the opportunity for people to walk, jog, hike, or bicycle-let alone get more active types of exercise.

Our society seems to devote a majority of its time to relatively isolated, private activities; for instance, studies show that larger numbers of hours spent watching television, playing video games and surfing the Internet have eaten into what was formerly social and active time for both children and adults, and these activities could therefore be tied to depression and other diseases related to inactivity and isolation.

Moreover, we need to ask ourselves what happens when people do venture outside. The lack of connected trails, unavailable sidewalk development, non-existent safe routes to schools, and the lack of interesting landscapes discourage physical activity.

In their cost-benefit analysis of Physical Activity of Using Trails, Dr.'s Wang, Macera, Schmid, and Buchner of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) found that for every \$1 invested in trails, a \$2.94 direct medical benefit was yielded to the community. The CDC found that because of the health and economic burden of physical inactivity, promoting physical activity has become a public health



priority. Studies have shown that lifestyle interventions are as effective as structured interventions in increasing physical activity. For activities such as walking and cycling, availability of greenway trails, sidewalks and bicycle routes is an important element needed to incorporate physical activity into everyday life. Indeed, lack of accessible facilities has been identified as a deterrent to a physically active lifestyle.

A rapidly emerging field of research focused on active living is uncovering how various factors influence physical activity, with the goal of developing guidelines and policies for design, planning, and management. The National Recreation & Park Association has published significant leisure research regarding *Active Living* over the years; and one such examination was regarding the renaissance of Chicago's urban landscape. In concert with Chicago's urban parks, bicycle and pedestrian trail systems have been identified as important outdoor settings for active living for a number of reasons: they cater to physical activities that can be adopted and adhered to by a broad spectrum of the public, their typical off-street and natural location in parks, former alleys, and greenways provide safe and attractive environments that further encourage use, and their length and the modes of movement (walking, jogging, bicycling, cross country skiing, and in-line skating) for which they are designed facilitate use for both leisure and utilitarian purposes. Although the original focus of the investigations was on the recreational dimensions of trail use, characteristics of the data collected lent themselves to reinterpretation from an active living perspective.

One other sample group comes from Greensboro, North Carolina, where the Parks and Recreation Departments Division of Greenways and Trails partnered successfully with Moses Cone/Wesley Long Health Foundation and obtained \$294K in private planning funding to develop Greensboro's Greenway Trails Plan that targets and prioritizes greenway trail needs.

### **The Challenge**

The task in Roanoke is to create active neighborhood linkages through a micro-scale greenway and trails planning tool that connects both greenspaces and great places that can in turn provide the rationale for a range of solutions to foster health and livability. Making neighborhoods and Village Centers more navigable for strollers, walkers and bikers may promote physical and social activity - but it may not be a fruitful activity unless this accessibility is linked to great places and has a direct impact on the community's chronic health related issues.

A "healthy" Roanoke, is made up of places that are valued by and accessible to everyone in their neighborhood: parks for recreation, play, and relaxation; streetscapes and sidewalks where neighbors meet and people can shop, jog and stroll; and downtown or community markets with fresh produce, food, festivals, theatre and other goods. Such places are also the "front porches" of public institutions: city halls, libraries, schools, and post offices. These places must be situated so that people can conveniently reach them on foot or by transit. Psychologically, thriving public spaces give residents a strong sense of community, and promote the kinds of familiarity and social bonds that make neighborhoods safer and healthier. They are critical to livable cities and healthy communities!

Four distinctive traits make a "healthy" place:

**A) Access and Linkages** - According to the Department of Transportation, 25 percent of all trips are less than a mile, but 75 percent of those trips are made by car. That 75 percent could be reduced if the design of neighborhoods facilitated other forms of active transport. Instead, communities have been typically based upon streets too wide to cross comfortably, traffic that moves too quickly, and an absence of neighborhood design that addressed greenway trails, sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes. Access means a truly public space, one that is available and easy to reach for people of all incomes and backgrounds.

**B) Uses and Activities** - Intriguing and beautifully designed space is not very valuable if people do not use it. A community-based planning process lets all the stakeholders - including residents, City staff, local leaders and merchants - define what goes on in a place. When ideas come from the ground up, not the top down, the events, programs, recreation, and play areas in a public space are truly connected to the communities that use them. In addition, partnerships among local organizations, merchants associations, and government agencies act as new sources of ideas for activities and help a public space become a true "community place." Planning for uses and activities in this way promotes sustainability and use, and therefore activity.

**C) Comfort and Image** - Rather than being satisfied with neighborhood design where vehicles tend to dominate, there is a stigma that suggests simply walking down the street is the limit to our opportunity. Great places that are designed to be appealing, enjoyable, and convenient provide an incentive to getting people out and about - they become attractions and destinations within themselves, like a greenway trail that meanders through a managed

landscaped corridor that once was an unsightly alley, or a shady retail streetscape with wide sidewalks, outdoor dining, benches, or a park that supports a range of active and passive uses where ADA access is the norm rather than the exception. Shade trees, comfortable places to sit, water fountains, waste receptacles, good views, places that encourage children, and adequate (but not overbearing) lighting, all of these amenities make people feel good about being in a public space.

**D) Sociability** - Like physical activity, research has shown that sociability can play a role in alleviating depression, which is strongly linked to isolation and disconnectedness. It can draw people out of the house and into community life - and it is the critical identifier of every great public space. Sociability is measured by public displays of affection, diversity, volunteerism, even people taking pictures and pointing out neighborhood monuments and special features.

### **Conclusion**

Per the endorsement of Roanoke's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation shall champion the effort for bringing active opportunities into neighborhoods via Roanoke's own greenway and trails master planning process. Thus far in bringing together Roanoke's division heads in Public Works, Transportation, Engineering, and Planning/Economic Development, a position has been identified that a detailed planning tool needs to be created that provides clear direction and prioritization of the City's greenways and trails system. By bringing Roanoke's leadership to the table with the likes of Carilion, the Roanoke City School System, the Health Department, and Virginia Tech, the goal is to create the scope of work necessary to produce an award-winning proposal for both the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Active Living Research, as well as Carilion's Health Foundation in an effort to obtain the necessary planning funds that would lead to the development of a neighborhood based greenway and trails plan; *Pathways to Healthier Neighborhoods; An Active Living Approach to Neighborhood Planning*, which, in-turn, would become part of Roanoke's Comprehensive Plan.

In closing, and on behalf of the Parks and Greenways Planning and Development sector of Roanoke Parks and Recreation, Mr. Underwood expressed appreciation for the support of Council to move forward and to make the City of Roanoke a national destination for relocation, retirement, outdoor recreation, and livability.

Council Member Cutler inquired if there is an agreement with the Departments of Economic Development and Engineering to include the concept in future neighborhood plans; whereupon, Mr. Underwood stated that staff of the Parks and Recreation and Economic Development Departments are working together, and there is a long-term process for developing plans for businesses and a short-term process for developing neighborhood plans.

Dr. Cutler inquired if the concept would fit in with CDBG funds for Gainsboro, or fall in line with the Southeast by Design project; whereupon, the City Manager advised that it is not in the Gainsboro plan at this point, but could be included if there is an interest by the neighborhood because development of greenways could be seen as an infrastructure element and could be financed. She stated that this type of approach is different from previous greenway planning as major connections, and the concept presented by Mr. Underwood looks at the positioning of greenways and trails in a way that promotes walking by citizens to transact business, as opposed to using greenway trails for recreational purposes only.

Council Member Cutler stated that the City should determine the locations where people would like to live and then decide on the logical corridors for transportation.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick spoke in support of the concept and the involvement by Carilion. In addition, he suggested involvement by HCA because the City reaches into HCA's general service area. He asked that Council be advised of continuing progress.

Council Member Cutler inquired about the construction schedule for the Lick Run Greenway Project; whereupon, Mr. Underwood advised that a preconstruction meeting is scheduled in the near future with the contractor. Dr. Cutler further inquired if the Lick Run Project provides connectors to Addison Middle School and Lincoln Terrace Elementary School; whereupon, Mr. Underwood stated that City staff could look into the possibility.

At 10:55 a.m., the Vice-Mayor declared the meeting in recess, to be reconvened at 11:30 a.m., in the Council's Conference Room, Rom 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, for one closed session.

The Council meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m., on Monday, March 6, 2006, in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, for a joint meeting of the Roanoke City Council, the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and the Western Virginia Water Authority, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris, Chair Michael A. Wray, and Chair M. Rupert Cutler presiding.

ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff-----1.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

ROANOKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Michael W. Altizer, Joseph B. Church, Richard C. Flora, Joseph P. McNamara, and Michael A. Wray, Chair-----5.

ABSENT: None-----0.

WESTERN VIRGINIA WATER AUTHORITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Michael W. Altizer, Elmer C. Hodge, H. Odell "Fuzzie" Minnix, Darlene L. Burcham, Robert C. Lawson, Jr., John B. Williamson, III, and M. Rupert Cutler, Chair-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Representing the City of Roanoke: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

Representing Roanoke County: Elmer C. Hodge, County Administrator; Paul M. Mahoney, County Attorney; and Mary Brandt, Office Support Specialist.

Representing the Western Virginia Water Authority: Gary Robertson, Executive Director, Water Operation; Michael T. McEvoy, Executive Director, Wastewater; Harwell M. Darby, Legal Counsel; Robert Benninger, Director of Operations; Mary Sweeney, Assistant Clerk; Bruce M. Grant, Director of Finance and Administrative Services; and Roger Blankenship, Engineer.

WATER RESOURCES: On behalf of the City of Roanoke, the host locality, Mayor Harris welcomed the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and staff and the Western Virginia Water Authority and staff to the meeting.

Chair Cutler submitted the first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) for the year ended June 30, 2005. He then turned the meeting over to the two Co-Directors for a presentation.

Messrs. McEvoy and Robertson jointly presented the following overview of the Water Authority's history and current programs:

## Integration of Cultures and Operations:

- Integrated former City and County utility department employees to create a new Western Virginia Water Authority
- Integrated City and County billing systems into a single billing system
- Integrated City and County billing staffs to provide a single billing/customer service staff
- Integrated Carvins Cove and Spring Hollow water quality laboratories to provide a single lab at Spring Hollow

## Western Virginia Water Authority Administrative Offices:

- Acquired and occupied Coulter Office Building - Spring of 2005
- Consolidated administrative, finance, billing and engineering staffs under one roof
- Convenient location for customers and created an identity for the Authority
- Receive 175 visitors a day to conduct business

## Meter Reading Initiatives:

- Commitment to move from quarterly to bi-monthly reading of residential meters
- Pilot project with contract meter readers
- Improved route efficiencies
- Goal is to provide monthly meter reading for all accounts
- Aggressive replacement of large (2" - 10") meters
- Continue implementation of automatic meter reading for all accounts

## Large Meter Replacement Program:

- 100 year old meters are gradually being replaced with much smaller and more efficient meters

## Water Pollution Control Plant:

- \$50 million is 65% complete
- Increases peak capacity to handle wet weather events
- Fully operational by July 2007

Inflow & Infiltration (I&I):

- Public Education Effort - 'The More you Know the Better the Flow' started last Fall
- Aimed at getting homeowners to disconnect downspouts and sump pumps
- Completed consent order negotiations with the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Finalizing collection system plan due January 2007 as required by Consent Order
- Replacing Mudlick Creek interceptor in southwest City and County (known as the Garst Mill Project which is a \$12 million interceptor upgrade)

Capital Improvement Program:

- WWA has increased capital spending for infrastructure improvements from \$2 million prior to FY-2005 to over \$5 million projected for FY-2007
- Infrastructure improvements will ultimately result in more effective service to customers by:
  - Minimizing service interruptions due to water line breaks
  - Improving water pressure and flow delivery
  - Reducing property damage from sewer backups
  - Reducing frequency of overflows from Water Pollution Control Plant

Technology:

- Installed 'real time' flow measurement devices in sewer system, which will help identify problems and areas for improvements
- Installed 'real time' security monitoring and operation of remote facilities, sends alarm back to Carvins Cove or Spring Hollow
- Developed computer models of water and sewer systems which will assist in identifying areas needing upgrades and new interconnections
- Website - 300 pages and 6,000 hits monthly
- Integrated City and County GIS Systems into one platform with map overlays
- Partnered with City on work order system which integrates into the GIS system
- In next fiscal year, provide online viewing of accounts and online payment

Community:

- Recognized two consecutive years by United Way for effective campaigns
- 'Letter' Sponsor for American Cancer Society's 2005 Relay for Life
- Reached 2,500 area students with conservation programs
- Fielded teams for Valleywide clean up events
- Sponsored award for Regional Science Fair

Rate Equalization Plan:

- Year two of six-year rate equalization plan has been implemented
- WVWA is on schedule to fully implement plan in 2010
- Converted to meter-based billing structure (meter needs to be sized properly)
- Initiated monthly billing for all customers

Water & Wastewater Bills:

- City Customers - had a rate increase
- County Customers - had a small rate decrease
- Statewide Average - lower average than statewide average; sewer rate will increase slightly in the future

2005 Annual Water and Wastewater Report:

- Average City of Roanoke residential water and wastewater rate was \$29.55
- Average County of Roanoke residential water and wastewater rate was \$38.75
- Average combined water and wastewater rate for Virginia was \$41.53

Water Main Replacement Hollins Road:

- Approximately 40 miles of 12" cast iron pipe were installed in the City of Roanoke from 1945 to 1960
- Expected service life for cast iron pipe should be 100+ years
- Due to poor manufacturing processes after WW II, break history is greater than expected, and a 12" pipe breakage is very visible
- Sections of 12" pipe have been replaced along Orange and Brambleton Avenues through Capital Improvement Projects
- Next project is Hollins Road



- Phase I – 4,000 lineal feet of 12” water line between Liberty Road and Plantation Road at an estimated cost of \$500,000.00 (FY-2007 CIP); paving scheduled for that area will help keep cost down; 13 main breaks occurred in last five years
- Phase II – 5,900 lineal feet of 12” water line between Liberty Road and Orange Avenue; five main breaks have occurred in the last five years
- Traffic count is 7,500 vehicles per day
- Evaluating construction operations – conventional vs. trenchless technology

#### Hollins Road Distribution System:

It was explained that the water system along Hollins Road consists primarily of a 24” transmission line, installed in the early 1990’s and a 12” distribution line, installed in the late 1940’s/early 1950’s; there are a number of smaller diameter lines that branch off the 12” line; the transmission line is one of the major carriers of water to the southeast portion of the City and County from Carvins Cove, and serves businesses and neighborhoods abutting Hollins Road; the length of the main segments is approximately two miles from Plantation Road to Orange Avenue; the 12-inch distribution main has had a number of breaks over the past few years; the Water Authority’s FY-2007 Water Capital Improvement Plan has \$500,000.00 budgeted for main replacement along Hollins Road, which is not enough to replace all of the 12” main that could cost in excess of \$2M; and a number of alternatives are being reviewed in lieu of main replacement, including trenchless replacement methods, but no decision has been made.

#### Water Supply Plan:

- Commonwealth of Virginia passed legislation effective November, 2005 which requires localities to develop a water supply plan
- Plans must be submitted within three to six years depending on the size of the locality and whether the plan is local or regional in nature; City Council has recommended the regional plan
- Anticipated that Roanoke Valley localities will participate in a regional plan and the Roanoke Valley Allegheny Regional Commission (RVARC) has agreed to coordinate development of a water supply plan

- Modify and expand the 2002 Long Range Water Supply Plan prepared by Black and Veatch as the basis for a regional water supply plan (involved Roanoke City, Roanoke County, City of Salem, the Counties of Bedford, Botetourt and Franklin, and may involve the Towns of Rocky Mount, Boones Mill and the City of Bedford)

Mr. Robertson was requested to discuss meetings with representatives of American Electric Power with regard to re-licensing of the Smith Mountain Lake Project, and efforts to ensure that development re-licensing provides for the use of water upstream from Smith Mountain Lake.

Mr. Robertson stated that the 2002 Long Range Water Supply Plan basically provides that at some point in the future, Smith Mountain Lake could be the next location when a new water supply is needed, and in approximately 2050 or 2060, there is a potential that approximately 12 million gallons of water per day may be needed. He stated that Smith Mountain Lake will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March, 2006, and licensing through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is effective for 40 years, therefore, a re-licensing for Smith Mountain Lake will be required this year. He called attention to instream flow monitoring downstream at Leesville, to the Kerr Reservoir and a Roanoke Log Perch study that is currently underway; and Bedford County is currently taking water out of Smith Mountain Lake as a public water supply, and the goal is to look at what will be happening in the next 40 years, with the hope that all future studies will take into consideration a 12 million gallon per day withdrawal. He noted that an environmental assessment with regard to the affect on the landscape would most likely be necessary at the immediate point of withdrawal, and it is hoped that it will not be necessary to go downstream of Smith Mountain Lake which would save a considerable amount of time.

Chair Cutler inquired if water withdrawal in the Roanoke Valley will be taken into consideration with regard to the re-licensing of Smith Mountain Lake; whereupon, Mr. Robertson responded in the affirmative and advised that it is important for both Bedford and Franklin Counties and the Water Authority to be included in the study because it makes sense for the affected localities to work together, approximately 80 per cent of the water supply study has been completed, and certain items in the 2002 study are not as detailed as current State requirements and need to be updated.

With respect to the Smith Mountain Lake re-licensing study, Chair Cutler stated that it is fortunate that members of the Smith Mountain Lake Association have recognized that emergency withdrawals for the Roanoke Valley, upstream of Smith Mountain Lake Dam and Leesville Dam, are relatively small compared to the requirements on American Electric Power to maintain downstream instream flow level on behalf of the Roanoke Log Perch and recreational

activities on the river. He added that the Smith Mountain Lake Association is not as concerned about the need to withdraw for occasional domestic water upstream as it is about instream flow requirements downstream from the dams, and the Association is even more concerned about what the dams must pass through in order to maintain the endangered Roanoke Log Perch and the protection of recreational activities downstream.

#### Regional Initiatives:

- Initiated quarterly meetings with the City of Salem, Town of Vinton, and Botetourt County to discuss water and wastewater issues; in planning stages of a joint sewer replacement project with the City of Salem
- Initiated meetings to discuss mutual aid for water and wastewater utilities during emergencies; 2004 flooding has prompted consideration for establishment of a state-wide network for utilities; partnership has been set up with DEQ, the Health Department, the Department of Emergency Management, and various agencies that represent water and wastewater plants in the state. It is hoped in the Summer to premiere a page on the Department of Emergency Management's website that will be open for utilities, specifying examples of contracts already in place, and contact information in the industry
- Hosted water supply planning seminars
- Hosted wastewater collection conferences around the state
- Hosted City of Wilmington, North Carolina, and New Hanover County, North Carolina, to discuss creation of a regional authority in their area

Council Member Dowe inquired if other jurisdictions have used ductile iron water pipe long enough to determine the durability of the material; whereupon, Mr. Robertson stated that ductile iron water pipe was used beginning in the mid 1960's, ductile means that the pipe flexes, and the primary problem with cast iron pipe relates to freezing and thawing and when the earth moves, the pipe splits; and C-900 PVC pipe (thick plastic pipe) has been used as smaller pipe over the past 25 years. He stated that more ductile iron water pipe has been used over the past 40+ years, and the 12" pipe that was used from the 1890's to the 1940's have had fewer problems, even at 100 years old, and the water pipes that have experienced the most problems due to manufacturing issues were installed between the end of WW II and approximately 1960.

Summary:

- Successful integration of systems and staffs
- Improved meter reading and billing technology
- Increased funding levels for capital projects
- Adopted a business model for operations
- Open to partnerships with institutional customers and private utilities
- Improved relations with regulatory agencies
- Developed partnerships with Smith Mountain Lake Association
- Positioning WVWA for leadership role in water and wastewater industry; receiving calls for assistance in development of agencies by other jurisdictions; active in the Virginia Government Finance Officers Association

Chair Cutler called upon Bruce M. Grant, Chair, Audit Committee, to summarize results of the first audit of the WVWA; whereupon, he stated that it was “a clean” first audit, and the most striking fact about the Annual Financial Report is the evaluation of capital assets which showed a gross total of over \$637 million.

Mr. McEvoy stated that the City of Roanoke provides information technology infrastructure, including telephone service, computer technology, internet access, radios, and serves as host for the website of the Water Authority. He further stated that Roanoke County provides fleet service at the County’s garage, payroll and general ledger services through the Finance Department and also acts as fiscal agent for the Authority. He called attention to certain outsourcing to private organizations, such as check processing for payments which is relatively inexpensive, and street paving.

Supervisor Church stated that citizens of the Roanoke Valley want to know that they will receive consistent service at a fair price, they want the assurance that commitments will be honored, they want to know that they will have sufficient water to meet their needs and that water-related issues will be addressed in a timely manner. He commended the Western Virginia Water Authority which appears to be on the right track in meeting the abovereferenced needs.

Chair Wray stated that the long term goal of the WVWA is to provide monthly meter reading, and 90 per cent of billing issues will be eliminated with accurate and regular electronic meter reading.

Supervisor Altizer stated he was involved with the merger of the City/County water systems from the beginning, the merger was an astronomical process that has come full scale, and is a credit to all employees of the Western Virginia Water Authority and the leadership provided by the Water Authority’s Co-Directors.

Council Member McDaniel stated that from the point of view of the citizens, the Water Authority has provided a much needed service and from a regional standpoint, the entity bodes well for the entire Roanoke Valley.

Mr. Robertson and Mr. McEvoy expressed appreciation for the support of Roanoke City Council and the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors.

On behalf of the City of Roanoke, Mayor Harris expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors of the Western Virginia Water Authority.

At 1:25 p.m., the Mayor declared the City Council meeting in recess until 1:30 p.m., in the City Council Chamber.

The Chair stated that the meeting of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors would be adjourned until Wednesday, March 8, 2006, at 5:15 p.m., for a joint meeting with the Roanoke County School Board, at the School Board Administration Office Building, located at 5937 Cove Road, N. W., Roanoke, Virginia.

Chair Cutler declared the meeting of the Western Virginia Water Authority adjourned until March 15, 2006, for a Special Meeting.

At 1:35 p.m., the Council reconvened in the City Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, except Council Member Wishneff, Mayor Harris presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-LEAGUE OF OLDER AMERICANS: The Mayor advised that the term of office of Vickie F. Briggs as a City representative to the League of Older Americans Advisory Committee expired on February 28, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Vickie F. Briggs.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Briggs was reappointed as a City representative to the League of Older Americans Advisory Committee, for a term ending February 28, 2007, by the following vote:

FOR MS. BRIGGS: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-PARKS AND RECREATION-COMMITTEES: The Mayor advised that the three year terms of office of Carl H. Kopitzke, Mary F. Monk and James Settle as members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will expire on March 31, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Carl H. Kopitzke and James Settle.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Kopitzke and Mr. Settle were reappointed as members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, for terms ending March 31, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MR. KOPITZKE AND MR. SETTLE: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

AIRPORT-OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES: The Mayor advised that the four year term of office of Claude N. Smith as a City representative to the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission expired March 9, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of John E. Dooley.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Dooley was appointed as a City representative to the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission, for a term ending March 9, 2010, by the following vote:

FOR MR. DOOLEY: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the City residency requirement be waived in this instance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted.

At 1:40 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber.

At 2:00 p.m., on Monday, March 6, 2006, the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff-----1.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Council Member Alfred T. Dowe, Jr.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

PURCHASE/SALE OF PROPERTY-AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER: A communication from the City Manager recommending that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, March 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, with regard to conveyance of certain property rights to Appalachian Power Company, described as Official Tax Nos. 4150101R and 4150501R, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the recommendation of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

BUDGET-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: A communication from the City Manager recommending that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, March 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider a budget adjustment for motor fuel expenses and certain Social Service program expenditures, was before the body.

It was advised that pursuant to requirements of Section 15.2-2507, Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, localities are required to hold a public hearing on budget adjustments which will exceed one per cent of the adopted budget, or \$500,000.00, whichever is less; and budget adjustments will be required for motor fuel expenses and certain Social Service program expenditures.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the recommendation of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

#### REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.



## REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

## ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

**BUDGET-EMERGENCY SERVICES:** The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Four-For-Life program is funded through the Office of Emergency Medical Services in Richmond, Virginia; each year, Roanoke Fire-EMS receives funds from the program to purchase items needed by the department; the Four-For-Life program, as amended in 2000, stipulates that four additional dollars be charged and collected at the time of registration of each passenger vehicle, pickup and panel truck; funds collected, pursuant to Section 46.2-694, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, shall be used only for emergency medical services; the law further states that the Department of Health shall return 26 per cent of the registration fees collected to the locality wherein such vehicle is registered, to provide funding for training of volunteer or salaried emergency medical service personnel of licensed, nonprofit emergency medical service agencies, or for the purchase of necessary equipment and supplies for EMS.

It was further advised that Roanoke Fire-EMS expected to receive assistance from the fund in the amount of \$40,000.00; Four-For-Life provided Roanoke Fire-EMS with a total of \$63,889.00; and action by Council is needed to appropriate additional Four-For-Life funds in the amount of \$23,889.00, in accordance with provisions of the program.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt an ordinance increasing the revenue estimate for the Four-For-Life Program, Account No. 001-110-1234-0657, in the amount of \$23,889.00, and appropriate funds in the same amount to Four-For-Life Program, Account No. 001-520-3521-2245; and authorize the City Manager to execute any required agreements or documents, to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37322-030606) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Commonwealth for the Office of Emergency Medical Services Four for Life Program, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 171.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37322-030606. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

HOUSING/AUTHORITY-VALLEY VIEW MALL: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City's Fair Housing Board plans to sponsor a Fair Housing Fair at Valley View Mall on April 29, 2006; owners of the Mall, CBL & Associates Management, Inc., have requested that the City execute an agreement in order to use the Mall; the agreement contains a provision that requires the City to agree to indemnify and hold harmless CBL and to defend CBL in the event of personal injury and/or property damage during the City's use of the premises; CBL has refused to delete the provision; and Council has previously waived sovereign immunity for the event at Valley View Mall.

It was further advised that the City's Service Excellence at Work Committee will sponsor the City's Citizen Appreciation Day at Valley View Mall on May 6, 2006; owners of the Mall, CBL & Associates, Inc., require that the City execute an agreement in order to use the Mall; the agreement contains provisions that require the City to agree to indemnify and hold harmless CBL and to defend CBL, in the event of personal injury and/or property damage during the City's use of the premises; only Council can waive the City's sovereign immunity and agree to such provision; and CBL has refused to delete the provision.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a resolution authorizing waiver of the City's sovereign immunity, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute both agreements, to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Council Member Cutler offered the following resolution:

(#37323-030606) A RESOLUTION authorizing the waiver of the City's sovereign immunity in connection with the City's use of Valley View Mall for the Fair Housing Board's Fair Housing Fair, and authorizing execution of an agreement with Valley View Mall, LLC, through its agent, CBL Associates Management, Inc., in connection with such use of Valley View Mall.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 172.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37323-030606. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#37324-030606) A RESOLUTION authorizing the waiver of the City's sovereign immunity in connection with the City's use of Valley View Mall for Citizen Appreciation Day, and authorizing execution of an agreement with Valley View Mall, LLC, through its agent, CBL Associates Management, Inc., in connection with such use of Valley View Mall.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 173.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37324-030606. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

#### DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Director of Finance submitted the Financial Report for the month of January 2006.

(For full text, see Financial Report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Director of Finance advised that the January Financial Report, summarizes the City's budget for the first seven months of the fiscal year; General Fund revenues are up about 7.1 per cent and represents a slightly positive variance from the adopted budget; State revenues make up about one quarter of the City's budget and are up about 6 per cent, and the majority of State revenues are dedicated to specific or mandated programs. He stated that the expenditure side of the budget is on track with the adopted budget.

Council Member Cutler stated that the Civic Facilities Fund appears to be down when comparing fiscal year 2006 to fiscal year 2005, and inquired if the difference can be attributed to a specific reason.

The Director of Finance advised that Civic Center revenues are off approximately \$400,000.00 on a year to date basis, and at this time in fiscal year 2005, the Civic Center account had just over \$1,600,000.00 in revenue, compared to about \$1,200,000.00 in fiscal year 2006. He explained that the Civic Center administers financial reporting following each event; once the event has been closed, funds flow through the City's accounting system; the Civic Center has been running behind all year in comparison to the previous fiscal year, due to a smaller number of actual events and less attendance. However, he added that in recent months, there has been a high level of activity at the Civic Center with two major concerts and after the books are closed and funds are channeled through the City's accounting system, the numbers will improve.

Council Member Cutler inquired about the status of the new Exhibit Hall presently under construction at the Roanoke Civic Center.

The City Manager advised that the project is ahead of schedule and should be completed in February 2007. She stated that construction involves a 45,000 square foot addition of Exhibit Hall space, as well as a new kitchen area that will serve not only the additional Exhibit Hall space, but other events that will bring additional revenue to the City; and the City is currently booking events in the year 2008.

There being no further questions or discussion, and without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the Financial Report for the month of January 2006 would be received and filed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

BUDGET-SCHOOLS: Ordinance No. 37316 appropriating funds for facility maintenance, school based furniture, and construction of a football stadium to be located on the Patrick Henry High School Football campus, having previously been before the Council for its first reading on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, read and adopted on its first reading and laid over, was again before the body, Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offering the following for its second reading and final adoption:

(#37316-030606) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for the 2005-06 Capital Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Program and Patrick Henry High School Stadium Project, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General, Capital Projects, School, School Capital Projects, and School Food Services Funds Appropriations.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 174.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37316-030606. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: Council Member Lea-----1.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

#### MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

#### INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

PARKING FACILITIES: Council Member Cutler complimented the City Manager and City staff on the renaming of City parking facilities, as more fully described in a communication from the City Manager under date of March 2, 2006.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CITY COUNCIL: The Mayor read the following House of Delegates and concurred in by the Senate, Joint Resolution No. 90 which was adopted on January 11, 2006, recognizing the outstanding service of Council Member M. Rupert Cutler to the citizens of the City of Roanoke.

WHEREAS, Dr. M. Rupert Cutler, respected citizen and city council member since 2002, is recognized for his outstanding service to the City of Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, a native of Detroit, Michigan, Rupert Cutler earned an undergraduate degree in wildlife management from the University of Michigan and master's and doctoral degrees from the Department of Resource Development of Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, Rupert Cutler was an editor for *Virginia Wildlife* and *National Wildlife* and for the magazines of the Virginia Game Department and served as the assistant director of The Wilderness Society, director of the Population-Environment Balance, vice president of the National Audubon Society and president of Defenders of Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, because of his vast knowledge of natural resources and environmental issues, Rupert Cutler was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve as the assistant secretary of agriculture for conservation, research, and education in 1977 and he served as a policy director for the United States Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and various agencies of the Department of Agriculture until 1980; and

WHEREAS, Rupert Cutler has generously given of his time and talents on numerous civic organizations and advisory boards, including the director of Virginia's Explore Park and founding director of the Western Virginia Land Trust, chairman of the board of the Western Virginia Water Authority, trustee of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, president of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, and as a member of the board of Opera Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, Rupert Cutler has been a valuable member of the Roanoke City Council from 2002 to 2006; and has contributed immensely to enhancing the environment and the quality of life for all of the residents of Roanoke; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the General Assembly commend Dr. M. Rupert Cutler on his many achievements; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. M. Rupert Cutler as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his outstanding service and commitment to the citizens of the City of Roanoke.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Shaheed Omar, 1215 Loudon Avenue, N. W., expressed concern with regard to alleged police brutality and excessive force by the Police Department. He called attention to a recent incident in the City of Roanoke involving a veteran police officer who allegedly shot a citizen in the line of duty, and stated that the police officer in question has a reputation of using excessive force while carrying out his law enforcement responsibilities.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

COUNCIL: The City Manager expressed appreciation for the Council's participation in the Friday, March 3, 2006, annual Financial Planning Session.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the Council meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker  
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris  
Mayor

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